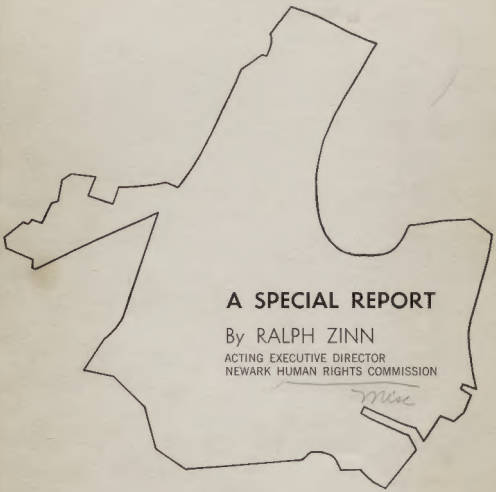


Human Relations Profile:

NEWARK, 1965

An outline map of the state of New Jersey, oriented horizontally. The map is simple, showing the state's borders. The text is centered within the map's outline.

A SPECIAL REPORT

By RALPH ZINN

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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FOREWORD

This report is an attempt to bring into focus the prevailing thoughts and feelings that the residents of Newark have on the conditions that exist in the city.

Interviews were held periodically during the past several months in an attempt to avoid the possibility of disorder that prevailed in the areas of Jersey City, Paterson, Elizabeth, New York and Philadelphia in 1964.

This profile is an adaptation of a confidential memorandum submitted to the Mayor of Newark when the possibilities of riot were imminent in the city. Much of the information contained herein is applicable to defining and improving the areas of concern which are encountered throughout the year and not just as a means of discussion during times of crisis.

We are therefore distributing a revised copy of the "Confidential Memorandum" as an attempt to inform interested people who, hopefully, will contribute their efforts to make Newark a better place in which to live, work and play.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to personally commend Mr. John T. Barros and Mrs. Marie Gonzalez, Community Relations Specialist for the Newark Human Rights Commission, and South Ward Coordinator Lee Burdette, for their cooperation in the preparation of this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROFILE: NEWARK 1965

Newark, New Jersey, the sixth largest city on the eastern seaboard, the Nation's 13th largest metropolitan area and 30th city in population size, is a highly compressed metropolis that is as susceptible to potential racial disorder as our sister city of Jersey City or other metropolises in the nation.

The underlying conditions and causes that set off public demonstrations and subsequent riots in other cities exist here and are perhaps more widespread due to the city's highly compressed population.

Newark has a population density of over 18,000 people per square mile which includes a Negro population of perhaps 200,000 out of a total 405,000. In human terms this is fissionable in view of the wide spectrum of problems that are seen through the eyes of the average Negro citizen in Newark.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed to determine the areas of tension that exist in the reality of everyday life for the Negro was the following: The author interviewed a representative group of residents, ministers, social workers, civic workers and political figures, all knowledgeable of the conditions existing throughout the city.

The major emphasis of the survey was taken in the Central and South Wards as these two areas are potentially the most volatile anywhere on the eastern seaboard short of Harlem.

- (a) The Central Ward has long been considered "the Negro ward" of the city.
- (b) The South Ward is an emerging Negro ghetto which is developing the same conditions that have existed for generations in the Central Ward. In the South Ward there is extensive overuse of facilities. The population has increased despite the fact that the number of housing units have not.

An open-ended questionnaire was utilized in an attempt to enumerate areas of concern. The responses were then coded into specific categories listed below.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Schools | 8. Urban Renewal & |
| 2. Housing Conditions | Proposed Highways |
| 3. Employment | 9. Neighborhood Frustration |
| 4. Police Brutality | 10. Liquor Sources |
| 5. Population Shifts | 11. Black Nationalism |
| 6. General City Services | 12. Recommendations |
| 7. Recreation Facilities | |
| 13. Conclusions | |

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

The key to education is reading and comprehension and the facts indicate that the bulk of the Negro youth in Newark is far below National standards. In this crucial learning area the average Negro youth is 1.5 years behind his contemporaries. Taking the sixth grade level as our medium, this means that thousands of Negro youths are still reading at a third and fourth grade level, but are in sixth grade due to so-called "social promotions". This can only lead to an inadequately prepared adult, most likely, one who has joined the increasing ranks of school drop-outs.

This causes THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IN NEWARK TODAY. It is from these aimless, hopeless, and helpless youths, in whom the spark of frustration exists, that the fire which kindles race riots can be found.

Physical facilities, no matter how new or modern, do not compensate for a teaching staff which is, by virtue of its high turnover and liberal use of substitute teachers, inadequate to the task of educating in an area where in-home encouragement is relatively lacking for learning situations.

Tables A and B are statistics based on the Board of Education's city wide testing program for October, 1963. A close look at the statistics will indicate that the city's grade six reading level for "paragraph meaning" is grade 4.5, that "word meaning" for grade six is 4.9 and total average is grade 4.7. This is significant because there are five city schools where the reading grade equivalents are above the national average.

Evidence of the remedial reading program at West Kinney Junior High School and The Queen of Angels Parochial School on Belmont Avenue, in the same area, indicates that students with "IQ's" of less than 90 have benefited MORE from remedial reading courses than those of over 100 IQ. The students of low "IQ" must not be pushed aside as uneducable without a fair trial.

The other major factor is, of course, overcrowded schoolrooms.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Problems arising from housing fall into four major areas:

- (a) Overcrowded conditions and overuse of facilities
- (b) Absentee landlords or homeowners unable to meet financial responsibility for their property
- (c) structural deficiencies
- (d) inadequate inspection procedures

If the city inspectors were to diligently pursue their task and if the city were to enforce the housing Code, (a), (c) and (d) of the above would be resolved. At the same time the overcrowding in our schools would be eliminated.

UNEMPLOYMENT

There is a direct and high correlation between unemployment and lack of education.

There are an estimated 10,000 unemployed youngsters between the ages of 16 and 21 in the Newark area. They represent totally unskilled labor who, by virtue of their lack of training, cannot operate basic porter equipment such as floor waxing machines or any more complex automated equipment.

Adult unemployment follows the same lines as youth unemployment.

An example of this is cited by the Apprenticeship Information Center at 1 Clinton Street which has unfilled apprenticeship opportunities with high pay.

The market today for jobs is basically a "closed market" and this is affecting Negro and white alike, but it works more to the detriment of the untrained in the majority of cases.

One respondent, a Negro minister said that qualified people are not given the opportunity for employment. "Often they are turned down without a test or interview."

The Business-Industrial Coordinating Council has made a determined effort to open up job opportunities and upgrade presently employed Negroes. Our experience shows that the "blue chip" companies in the City of Newark and environs are virtually begging for qualified non-white help—not necessarily because they are civil rights minded, but because it is good for their business. Equal for equal between a qualified white and Negro today, the Negro will be hired first by these companies.

POLICE BRUTALITY

This is a difficult area of human interaction to define. Inevitably such charges must arise from emotion-packed clashes between police officer and private citizen.

As one interviewee stated "The question of brutality arises not necessarily from a determined effort by the police, in general, to forcibly intimidate the Negro, but from mis-handling, through a lack of tact on the part of some police officers, of various street incidents which lead invariably to heated feelings and tempers in the face of frustrations which run high".

"Brutality" is as much a question of attitude as it is of actual physical force applied in a given situation. The police officer is an identifiable representative of the municipality. There is a community feeling that the Police Department knows who the so-called "bad eggs," within the department are, but does not adequately discipline them.

On the other hand, however, there is agreement privately, among some Negroes, that the "nightstick" is the only language understood by some of those involved with the law and that all necessary force be utilized to bring matters under control.

Decisions must be made by those complaining of police brutality that such specific instances be reported to the Mayor or the Newark Human Rights Commission. Since January of 1963, and all during the height of the controversy about the establishment of a police advisory board, the Newark Human Rights Commission has had only one official complaint, the Bryant case in July, 1964.

POPULATION SHIFTS

Population shifts have been widespread in the city since World War II and have had a twofold effect:

(a) In the white community the city is no longer a desirable place in which to live or to purchase a home.

(b) In the Negro community the exodus of whites upon Negro entry into a neighborhood creates a feeling of frustration, distrust and hate.

I want to point out that the real estate interests have manipulated the housing market in the City of Newark to such an extent and with such devious methods that prosecution under the Newark anti-block busting ordinance must begin at once and legislation prohibiting the placing of "sold" signs be placed on the books as soon as possible.

In most instances where homes are bought for \$100. down, or less, the broker, to make the sale, exaggerates on the income of the family to purchase the property by including each member who works, or can work, as part of an income producing total which, if thoroughly investigated, would be found to be substantially below what the law requires.

The V.A. and F.H.A. take the position that if the financing institution accepts the income application, then they are satisfied and they usually okay the loan. The broker, in most of these deals, is working through a mortgage company which he controls and accepts the mortgage which he soon after sells at a point reduction, to another mortgage company far removed from this area.

This method has had the effect of bringing people into an area who cannot meet the financial responsibilities of meeting the mortgage and upkeep requirements of the home as they were led to believe by the selling broker. In addition, the selling real estate broker, at the time of the closing, also discourages these buyers from having their own attorney by telling them that the attorney for the mortgage company is representing them.

GENERAL CITY SERVICES

There is a feeling in the Negro and white communities of the Central and South Wards that general city services are insufficient. The days are no longer with us when the city takes upon itself its inherent obligations to trim trees, repair deficient streets, place adequate traffic signs, enforce housing codes, without a concerted effort, on the part of the residents, consisting of letters, telephone calls, petitions and finally demonstrations.

To add to this, in the South Ward there exists a group who are "rabble rousing" individuals for the sole purpose to perpetrate difficulty. This group is under investigation from the F.B.I., this commission and Councilman Bernstein's staff.

They have already picketed the Fifth Precinct and the Department of Public Welfare, on two occasions. Since coming to Newark the "Students for a Democratic Society" dominated group has sought to create confusion and dissension in the community. It is the author's opinion, that based on its performance in the city since 1964, that S.D.S., operating under the name of the Newark Community Union, has caused nothing but trouble and difficulty to the good citizens of Newark. S.D.S. has not put forward any real positive program for the improvement of intergroup relations and, as a result, has not won much support for the established civil rights groups.

Indeed during the past year the S.D.S. group has lost the support of many of its original members because the S.D.S. leaders have stubbornly refused to give greater representation and voice to the residents of the area where they operate.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Recreation facilities fall into two general categories:

- (a) The need for all encompassing recreation center, and
- (b) "Lots for Tots" or sitting areas for young mothers and elderly residents who are located at considerable distances from parks.

In the Central Ward which has the greatest concentration of population in the city does not have a real recreation area.

It has no facilities for recreation programming for girls; no facilities for developing skills in baseball and little league-type activities (all play areas are asphalted); no facilities for tennis; no handball courts; no Board of Education leaders on a full-time basis.

At least one-third of all families in the Central Ward have only *one adult* in the family unit. This creates a most unique problem because that individual is generally the breadwinner. There are no nursery facilities for these parents or for families which have two working parents.

There seems to be a total lack of imagination so far as the Board of Education summer program is concerned. There would appear to be a lack of realization that kids can learn as much in the summer in a recreation program as they can in a structured academic program.

URBAN RENEWAL AND PROPOSED HIGHWAYS

Urban renewal is universally regarded by Negroes as an instrument of the white power structure intended to drive them into self-contained areas. The Negro too often finds himself pursued by the urban renewal processes from neighborhood to neighborhood or dislocated by a new highway. In an effort to remove slums, the Negro becomes a refugee between ghettos.

The irony of urban renewal is that it does not answer problems, it merely relocates them. Often expanding their original dimensions. The South Ward, of recent years, is an example of the mobility of a social problem in the path of the bulldozer.

Neighborhoods are no longer stable in areas where the relocation process is emphasized. The white community in the South Ward is making its feelings known by simply leaving. In short, the ghetto is not eliminated, it is merely enlarged.

The proposed Routes 78 and 75 will cause a further ghettoizing of the Negroes in the South Ward. Other areas of the city seem to be practically off limits to the Negro movement.

NEIGHBORHOOD FRUSTRATION AND PSYCHOLOGY OF COLOR

Neighborhood change (white to Negro) is synonymous with neighborhood deterioration. In many cases the normal services of the city cease to function with the same regularity.

A twofold prevailing feeling based on the psychology of color breaks down to:

- (a) The view that the Negro takes of himself
- (b) The view the white community takes of the Negro

Insofar as the Negro, in a run-down area, sees himself on a cultural, economic, and physical treadmill, it is not surprising that he makes little effort to improve his surroundings. An image of inferiority and hopelessness is reinforced in his mind everytime he looks out the screenless window. Treeless, traffic-filled, tavern saturated and drab surroundings are not conducive to community involvement.

There are, it cannot be denied, slum tenants as there are slum landlords. These people are cultural cripples.

LIQUOR SOURCES

The city officials are to be commended for restricting the transfer of taverns and other liquor sources into areas that already contain sufficient number of outlets.

BLACK NATIONALISM

There is evidence to indicate that Black Nationalism and the Muslim movement is making headway in Newark and that groups of youths are not only being indoctrinated, but trained in "self-defense" for potential readiness in troubled situations.

James XXX, leader of Black Muslim Temple 25 in Newark, states, "We're not in the city to cause trouble, we're only here to build".

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Responsible municipal officials must see things firsthand. For example, a visit to Newark City Hospital's emergency ward would be illuminating, if not announced in advance.

- (2) To interest private foundations in long range projects to correct neighborhood deficiencies.

- (3) Create a "Youth Block Corps" in store front neighborhood centers for club group counselling and the training of leadership for indigenous youth of the area.

- (4) Expand the P.A.L. in the Central and South Ward areas not only to help to structure wholesome youth activities, but to improve the image of the police. A minimum number of police can be made available by relieving desk personnel with female or male civilian help. Although it would be expected that the relieved desk personnel be channelled for regular police duty, one must not underestimate the long term value of engaging empathetic policemen in youth work.

- (5) Engage the total involvement of all people in Newark who have a sufficient amount of influence to change the course of daily events in the city. A united front devoid of personality differences would involve even those who may be against the Mayor's policies or future political antagonists. In this way, their involvement could work for the total benefit of the city.

- (6) In addition, the Mayor must sort out those who control large blocks of rental housing in this city, speculators and real estate brokers and demand from them that they discipline their selfish anti-social motives of exploitation or feel the full weight of the city and state machinery in order to bring relative stability to Newark's housing market.

- (7) In the areas of the school—content analysis of children's textbooks in use in the city's schools, give the impression that we live in a "fair skinned" world. H. E. Wilson, author of "Intergroup Relations in Teaching Materials" and Otto Klineberg, Professor of Social Psychology at Columbia University, point out that in American textbooks, "foreign nationalities and American minority groups are either placed in an unfavorable light or treated inadequately".

A 1963 census by the Newark Board of Education revealed that 70.2% of the students in our city elementary school population are Negro. It would be advisable to utilize elementary readers that would give the Negro or Puerto Rican child a sense of identification and belonging in this society, by giving a more balanced presentation of American life from an ethnic and socio-economic standpoint.

CONCLUSION

This memorandum has been prepared in order to clarify a situation which has become somewhat cloudy and confused, resulting in tensions, anxiety and emotionalism. A survey on

community attitudes reveals many things and "reality" becomes a relative matter determined by the experiences that affect the eye and mind of the beholder.

In reality, from my point of view, the City of Newark has utilized large percentages of its resources for the benefit of its minority population. Newark, perhaps, has done more than any other city of comparable size to aid those segments of the population who have been deprived, for generations, of the opportunity to become self-sufficient in all areas of American private enterprise.

For example, the City's Department of Public Welfare, which has the inherent obligation to support its families in need allocated \$2.5 million dollars to sustain those needy Negro and Puerto Rican families who comprise 75% and 15%, respectively, of the total welfare clientele.

In addition, our sixteen "Baby-Keep-Well" Stations, of which fourteen service predominantly Negro communities, cost \$126,000. to maintain in 1963.

In our City Hospital, with all its apparent shortcomings, of all the patients treated in 1963, 80% were Negroes who were treated at a cost of some \$4,000,000. out of a total cost outlay of \$7,000,000.

Our public housing developments, which have a total population in excess of 50,000 and which were designed for the purpose of rescuing thousands of our economically submerged people, of all races, from misery, house more than 12% of our total city population.

In the area of school construction in the last ten years, the following new schools have been built in predominantly Negro areas:

- 1958—Clinton Place Jr. High School
- 1959—West Kinney St. Jr. High School

1962—Belmont-Runyon

1963—Quitman Street

Additions in the following schools were constructed:

1962—Madison Jr. High School—New Addition

1963—Avon Ave. School—New Cafeteria and Recreation Rooms

1963—Bergen St. School—New Cafeteria and Recreation Rooms

1963—Miller St. School—New Addition

1963—Peshine Ave. School—New Addition

1963—Sussex Ave. School—New Addition

1963—South 8th St. School—Addition and Alterations

1964—Montgomery St. School—New Addition and Alterations

This is all in addition to nine other new buildings and school additions which were completed during the years 1956-1964.

We must realize that these are only stopgap measures which must be carried forth until the Negro attains his rightful place in American society as an equal. No one wants to be obligated as a hopeless charity case. It is, therefore, of extraordinary importance that we, the City Administration, follow the 1963 Recommendations of the Newark Human Rights Commission to receive massive state and federal aid to improve opportunities in education and employment for young people so that Newark can get on its feet socially, educationally and thereafter economically.

TABLE "A"

SUMMARY TABLE OF SCHOOL MEDIANI BASED UPON
THE STANFORD READING TEST, INTERMEDIATE, FORM K, AND
THE KUHLMANN-ANDERSON INTELLIGENCE TEST, FORM F

Grade 6

School Code No.	C. A.	IQ*	M.A.	Total Aver. Reading Age Equivalent	Reading Grade Equivalents		
					Paragraph Meaning	Word Meaning	Total Average
1	11-5	92	10-7	9-7	4.3	4.6	4.5
2	11-5	93	10-8	9-7	4.4	4.6	4.5
3	11-3	100	11-3	10-1	4.6	5.2	4.9
4	11-3	101	11-6	10-6	4.8	5.7	5.3
5	11-6	93	10-11	10-0	4.6	5.1	4.9
6	11-4	95	10-11	9-5	4.1	4.5	4.3
7	11-4	98	10-11	9-9	4.3	4.9	4.6
8	11-1	112	12-6	11-10	6.3	6.8	6.6
9	11-5	92	10-5	9-6	4.4	4.4	4.4
10	11-5	92	10-7	9-4	4.2	4.3	4.3
11	11-4	90	10-4	9-2	3.9	4.2	4.1
12	11-3	101	11-4	9-11	4.6	5.0	4.8
13	11-1	106	11-8	11-2	5.4	6.4	5.9
15	11-3	96	10-9	9-8	4.3	4.8	4.6
16	11-2	100	11-3	10-4	4.9	5.3	5.1
17	11-1	101	11-4	10-4	4.5	5.9	5.2
18	11-3	97	11-0	9-11	4.6	5.0	4.8
19	11-2	108	11-11	11-9	6.3	6.6	6.5
21	11-2	102	11-5	10-2	4.8	5.2	5.0
22	11-5	94	10-7	9-5	4.2	4.5	4.4
23	11-2	105	11-11	10-11	5.1	6.2	5.7
24	11-3	103	11-8	10-8	5.0	5.9	5.5
26	11-5	93	10-6	9-5	4.3	4.4	4.4
29	11-4	94	10-10	9-8	4.4	4.7	4.6
30	11-4	89	10-1	9-2	4.1	4.1	4.1
31	11-3	95	10-10	9-8	4.3	4.8	4.6
33	11-1	117	12-10	11-11	6.1	7.1	6.6
34	11-5	92	10-7	9-4	4.2	4.3	4.3
35	11-6	91	10-5	9-3	4.0	4.2	4.1
36	11-2	104	11-7	11-2	5.2	6.6	5.9
37	11-4	95	10-9	9-8	4.5	4.6	4.6
38	11-6	97	11-3	10-5	4.9	5.4	5.2
39	11-3	95	10-6	9-5	4.3	4.2	4.3
40	11-4	93	10-7	9-4	4.1	4.4	4.3
41	11-4	100	11-5	10-1	4.8	5.1	5.0
42	11-5	99	11-4	10-4	4.9	5.3	5.1
43	11-4	99	11-3	10-1	4.7	5.1	4.9
44	11-6	90	10-6	9-3	4.0	4.3	4.2
45	11-6	92	10-6	9-4	4.1	4.3	4.2
46	11-6	93	10-11	9-6	4.2	4.7	4.5
47	11-4	98	11-3	10-4	4.8	5.4	5.1
48	11-1	112	12-6	12-2	6.4	7.3	6.9
49	11-4	99	11-2	9-11	4.5	5.1	4.8
50	11-4	95	10-9	9-9	4.4	4.9	4.7
53	11-2	113	12-7	12-5	6.4	7.7	7.1
55	11-5	93	10-8	9-9	4.3	4.9	4.6
City	11-5	97	11-0	9-10	4.5	4.9	4.7

*IQ medians are computed from school distributions and not from median ages

TABLE "B"

SUMMARY TABLE OF SCHOOL MEDIANS BASED UPON
THE STANFORD ARITHMETIC TEST, INTERMEDIATE, FORM KM

(The five schools participating in the Newark Plan are included in this table with their scores on the Metropolitan Arithmetic Test, Intermediate, AM, converted to Stanford Arithmetic Test, Intermediate, KM, grade and age equivalents.)

Grade 7

School Code No.	Reasoning		Computation		Total Arithmetic Avg.	
	Grade	Age	Grade	Age	Grade	Age
3	5.3	10-6	5.7	11-0	5.5	10-9
5	6.3	11-5	6.3	11-6	6.3	11-6
6	5.1	10-3	5.4	10-8	5.3	10-6
7	5.3	10-6	5.6	10-11	5.5	10-9
9	4.7	9-10	5.2	10-5	5.0	10-2
11	4.8	10-0	5.3	10-7	5.1	10-4
12	5.4	10-7	5.7	11-0	5.6	10-10
13	6.7	11-10	7.4	12-9	7.1	12-4
15	4.8	10-0	5.6	10-11	5.2	10-6
17	6.0	11-3	6.9	12-3	6.5	11-9
18	6.8	12-0	7.2	12-7	7.0	12-4
21	6.1	11-3	7.1	12-5	6.6	11-10
23	7.0	12-3	7.3	12-8	7.2	12-6
24	6.6	11-9	7.7	13-0	7.2	12-5
26	4.4	9-6	4.3	9-6	4.4	9-6
30	4.7	9-10	4.8	10-1	4.8	10-0
31	5.1	10-3	5.4	10-8	5.3	10-6
33	8.5	14-0	8.2	13-7	8.4	13-10
36	7.0	12-3	7.3	12-8	7.2	12-6
37	4.8	10-0	5.4	10-8	5.1	10-4
38	5.1	10-3	5.3	10-9	5.3	10-6
40	4.6	9-9	4.4	9-7	4.5	9-8
41	6.0	11-3	6.2	11-6	6.1	11-5
42	5.9	11-2	6.3	11-6	6.1	11-4
45	4.9	10-1	4.6	9-10	4.8	10-0
46	5.7	10-11	6.1	11-5	5.9	11-2
47	6.0	11-3	6.4	11-8	6.2	11-6
48	7.7	13-0	7.6	12-11	7.7	13-0
49	5.3	10-6	6.1	11-5	5.7	11-0
50	5.4	10-7	5.9	11-3	5.7	10-11
51	4.8	10-0	4.5	9-9	4.7	9-11
52	5.4	10-7	5.9	11-3	5.7	10-11
53	7.2	12-6	7.0	12-4	7.1	12-5
54	5.7	10-11	5.9	11-3	5.8	11-1
55	5.0	10-2	4.8	10-1	4.9	10-2
City	5.3	10-6	5.6	10-11	5.5	10-9

